

## CHAPTER 600 PAVEMENT ENGINEERING

### Topic 601 - Introduction

Pavement engineering involves the determination of the type and thickness of pavement surface course, base, and subbase layers that in combination are safe, cost effective, and structurally adequate for the projected traffic loading and specific project conditions. This combination of roadbed materials placed in layers above the subgrade (also known as basement soil) is referred to as the "pavement" or the "pavement structure".

The Department guidelines and standards for pavements described in this manual are based on extensive engineering research and field experience, including the following:

- Theoretical concepts in pavement engineering and analysis.
- Data obtained from test track studies and experimental sections.
- Research on materials characteristics, testing methods, and equipment.
- Observation of performance throughout the State and the nation.

The pavement should be engineered using the standards and guidance described in this manual to ensure consistency throughout the State and provide a pavement structure that will have adequate strength, ride quality, and durability to carry the projected traffic loads for the design life of each project. The final pavement structure for each project should be based on a thorough investigation of specific project conditions including subgrade soils and structural materials, environmental conditions, projected traffic, cost effectiveness, and the performance of other pavements in the same area or similar climatic and traffic conditions.

The guidelines and standards found in this manual should be considered minimum standards and should not preclude good engineering judgment

based on experience and knowledge of the local conditions. Good engineering judgment must still be used to determine if more stringent standards are required.

### Topic 602 – Pavement Layers

#### Index 602.1 Description

Pavement structures are comprised of one or more layers of select materials placed above the subgrade. The basic pavement layers of the roadway are shown in Figure 602.1 and discussed below.

- (1) *Subgrade.* Also referred to as basement soil, the subgrade is that portion of the roadbed consisting of native or treated soil on which surface course, base, subbase, or a layer of any other material is placed. Subgrade may be composed of either in-place material that is exposed from excavation, or embankment material that is placed to elevate the roadway above the surrounding ground. Subgrade soil characteristics are discussed in Topic 614.
- (2) *Subbase.* Unbound or treated aggregate/granular material that is placed on the subgrade as a foundation or working platform for the base. It functions primarily as structural support but it can also minimize the intrusion of fines from the subgrade into the pavement structure, improve drainage, and minimize frost action damage. The subbase generally consists of lower quality materials than the base but better than the subgrade soils. Subbase may not be needed in areas with higher quality subgrade (California R-value > 40) or where it is more cost effective to build a thicker base layer. Further discussion on subbase materials and concepts can be found in Chapter 660.
- (3) *Base.* Select, processed, and/or treated aggregate material that is placed immediately below the surface course. It provides additional load distribution and contributes to drainage and frost resistance. Base may be one or multiple layers treated with cement, asphalt or other binder material, or may consist of untreated aggregate. In some cases,

the base may include a drainage layer to drain water that seeps into the base. The aggregate in base is typically a higher quality material than that used in subbase. Further discussion on base materials and concepts can be found in Chapter 660.

- (4) *Surface Course.* One or more layers of the pavement structure engineered to accommodate and distribute traffic loads, provide skid resistance, minimize disintegrating effects of climate, improve surface drainage, and minimize infiltration of surface water into the underlying base, subbase and subgrade. Sometimes referred to as the surface layer, the surface course may be composed of a single layer, constructed in one or more lifts of the same material, or multiple layers of different materials.

Depending on the type of base or subbase layers, surface courses are used to characterize pavements into the following three categories:

- (a) *Flexible Pavements.* These are pavements engineered to bend or flex when loaded. Flexible pavements transmit and distribute traffic loads to the underlying layers. The highest quality layer is the surface course, which typically consists of one or more layers of asphalt binder mixes and may or may not incorporate underlying layers of base and/or subbase. These types of pavements are called "flexible" because the total pavement structure bends (or flexes) to accommodate deflection bending under traffic loads. Procedures for flexible pavements can be found in Chapter 630.
- (b) *Rigid Pavements.* These are pavements with a rigid surface course typically a slab of Portland cement concrete (or a variety of specialty hydraulic cement concrete mixes used for rapid strength concrete) over underlying layers of stabilized or unstabilized base or subbase materials. These types of pavements rely on the substantially higher stiffness of the concrete slab to distribute the traffic loads over a relatively wide area of underlying layers and the subgrade. Some rigid

concrete slabs have reinforcing steel to help resist cracking due to temperature changes and repeated loading. Procedures for rigid pavements can be found in Chapter 620.

- (c) *Composite Pavements.* These are pavements comprised of both flexible (asphalt binder mixes) and rigid (cement concrete) layers over underlying layers of stabilized or unstabilized base or subbase materials. Currently, for purposes of the procedures in this manual, only pavements with a flexible layer over a rigid surface layer are considered to be composite pavements. In California, such pavements consist mostly of existing rigid pavements (typically Portland cement concrete) that have had a flexible surface course overlay such as hot mix asphalt (HMA) (formerly known as asphalt concrete), open graded friction course (OGFC) (formerly known as open graded asphalt concrete), or rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC). See Chapter 640 for additional information on composite pavements.
- (5) *Non-Structural Wearing Course.* On some pavements, a non-structural wearing course is placed to protect the surface course from wear and tear from tire/pavement interaction, the weather, and other environmental factors. Examples of non-structural wearing courses include OGFC, various types of surface seals, and added surface course thickness to allow for chain wear or grinding. Although non-structural wearing courses are not given a structural value in the procedures and tables found in this manual, they will improve the service life of the pavement by protecting it from traffic and environmental effects.
- (6) *Others.* Depending on the type of pavement built and the subgrade or existing soil conditions encountered, additional layers may be included in the pavement. Some of these layers include:
- (a) Interlayers can be used between pavement layers or within pavement layers to reinforce pavement and/or improve

resistance to reflective cracking of existing pavement.

- (b) Bond Breakers are used to prevent bonding between two pavement layers such as rigid pavement surface course to a stabilized base.
- (c) Tack Coats are used to bond a layer of asphalt binder mix to underlying existing pavements or between layers of asphalt binder mixes where multiple lifts are required.
- (d) Prime coats can be used on aggregate base prior to paving for better bonding and to act as water proofing of the aggregate base.
- (e) Leveling Courses are used to fill and level surface irregularities and ruts before placing overlays.

## Topic 603 – Types of Pavement Projects

### 603.1 New Construction

New construction is the building of a new facility. This includes new roadways, interchanges or grade separation crossings, and new parking lots or safety roadside rest areas.

### 603.2 Widening

Widening projects involve the construction of additional width to improve traffic flow and increase capacity on an existing highway facility. Widening may involve adding lanes (including bus or bicycle lanes), shoulders, pullouts for maintenance/transit traffic; or widening existing lane, shoulder or pullouts.

It is often not cost-effective or desirable to widen a highway without correcting for bad ride and major structural problems in adjacent pavements when that work is needed. Therefore, on widening projects such as lane/shoulders additions, auxiliary lanes, climbing or passing lanes, etc., the existing adjacent pavement condition should be investigated to determine if rehabilitation or pavement preservation is

warranted. If warranted, combining rehabilitation or pavement preservation work with widening is strongly encouraged. Combining widening with work on existing pavement can minimize traffic delay and long-term costs. For example, grinding the adjoining rigid pavement lane next to the proposed widening can improve constructability and provide a smoother pavement surface for the widening. For flexible pavement projects, a minimum of 45 mm overlay over the widening and existing pavement should be used to eliminate pavement joints which are susceptible to water intrusion and early fatigue failure.

Additional guidance and requirements on widening existing facilities, including possible options as well as certain circumstances that may justify adding rehabilitation or pavement preservation work to widening, or deferring it, are discussed in Index 612.3 and the Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM) Chapter 8, Section 7.

### 603.3 Capital Preventive Maintenance (CAPM)

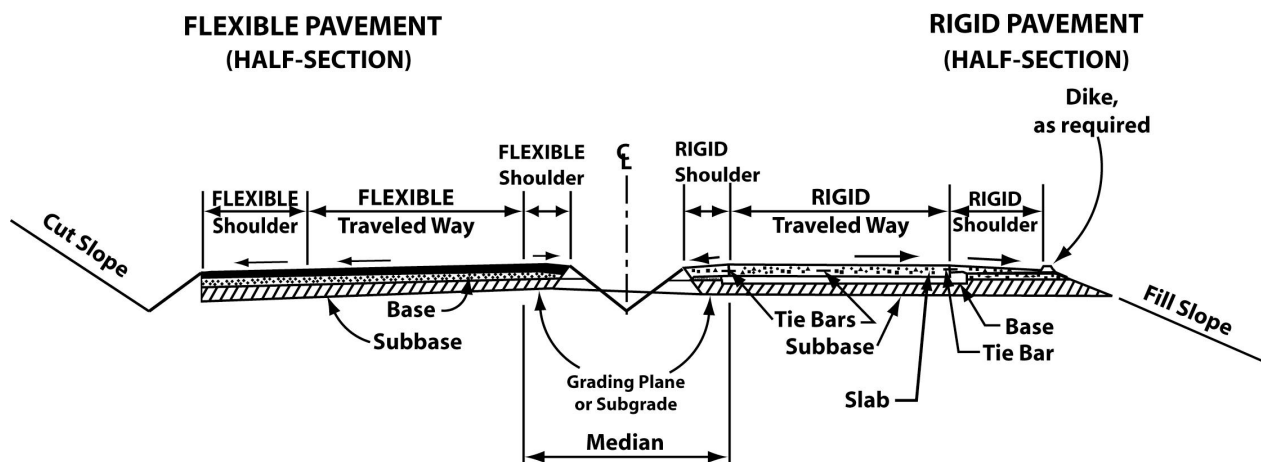
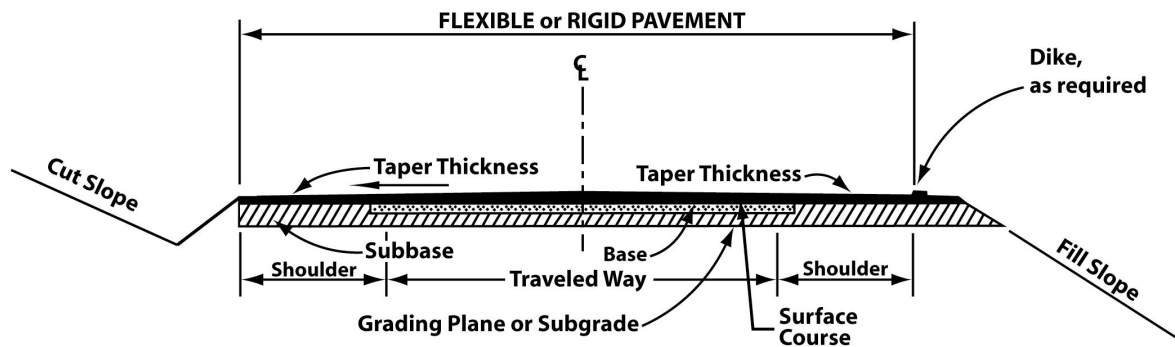
Capital Preventive Maintenance (CAPM) is a program of short-term (<10 years) repair projects agreed to between the Department and FHWA in 1994. Detailed information regarding the CAPM program can be found in the CAPM Guidelines available on the Department Pavement website, and in Chapters 620, 630 and 640 of this manual.

The CAPM program has evolved into the following two categories:

- (1) *Pavement Preservation.* Pavement preservation projects are used to provide preventive treatments for pavement only work with the intent to preserve pavements in good condition. The District Maintenance Engineer typically determines which preventive treatment to apply and when. Examples of pavement preservation projects include: removal and replacement of a non-structural wearing course; thin non-structural overlays less than or equal to 25 mm; replacing joint seals; crack sealing; grinding or grooving rigid pavement surface to improve friction; grinding

Figure 602.1

## Basic Pavement Layers of the Roadway

DIVIDED HIGHWAYSUNDIVIDED HIGHWAYS

## Notes:

1. These illustrations are only to show nomenclature and are not to be used for geometric cross section details. For these, see Chapter 300.
2. Pavement drainage design, both on divided and undivided highways, are illustrated and discussed under Chapter 650.
3. Only flexible and rigid pavements shown. Composite pavements are the same as rigid pavements with a flexible pavement overlay.
4. See Index 626.2 for criteria for when and how to use flexible or rigid shoulders.

rigid pavement to eliminate rutting from chain wear; seal coats; slurry seals; and microsurfacing. Traffic safety (other than those mentioned in the CAPM Guidelines) and other operational improvements, geometric upgrades, or widening are normally not included in pavement preservation projects. Note that strategies for pavement preservation are periodically added and updated. Strategies and guidelines on pavement preservation treatments currently used by the Department are available in the Maintenance Technical Advisory Guide (MTAG).

(2) *Pavement Rehabilitation.* The purpose of pavement rehabilitation (formerly known as corrective CAPM) is to repair pavements with minor or very limited subsurface distresses while extending the service life of the existing pavement. Timely pavement rehabilitation will postpone the need for major roadway rehabilitation and is generally more cost effective than rehabilitation for pavements in fair condition. Examples of pavement rehabilitation projects include but are not limited to:

- Surface course overlays less than or equal to 75 mm
- Removal and replacement of surface course (not to exceed 75 mm)
- Isolated digouts of flexible pavements (up to 20% of total project cost)
- Isolated rigid pavement slab replacements (up to 20% of total project cost)
- Diamond grinding of rigid pavements to eliminate faulting or restore ride quality to an acceptable level
- Dowel Bar Retrofit

Items that are not considered pavement rehabilitation include:

- Crack, seat, and overlay of rigid pavements
- Surface course overlays greater than 75 mm

- Removal and replacement of more than 75 mm of the surface course (unless the work is incidental to maintaining an existing vertical clearance or to conform to existing bridges or pavements)
- Lane/shoulder replacements (unless the work is incidental to maintaining an existing vertical clearance or to conform to existing bridges or pavements)

Projects that require these types of treatments are roadway rehabilitation projects and should meet those standards, see Index 603.4.

Traffic operational improvements, geometric corrections, or widening are not included in pavement rehabilitation projects, but limited safety improvements such as metal beam guardrail, dike upgrades and other easily implemented enhancements as discussed in the CAPM Guidelines.

### 603.4 Roadway Rehabilitation

Roadway rehabilitation, with its provision for restoring the facility in poor condition to good condition, is different from pavement rehabilitation and pavement preservation that simply preserve or repair the facility to a safe and good condition.

The primary purpose of roadway rehabilitation projects is to return roadways that ride rougher than established thresholds, and/or exhibit major structural distress, to good condition. Many of these structural distresses indicate failure of the surface course and/or base layers. Roadway rehabilitation work is generally regarded as heavy, non-routine maintenance work engineered to preserve and extend the service life as well as provide upgrades to enhance safety where needed. As described in Design Information Bulletin 79, Section 1.2, rehabilitation criteria also apply to minor projects and certain other projects in addition to roadway rehabilitation projects.

Roadway rehabilitation projects may also include additional items of work such as upgrading other highway appurtenances such as drainage facilities, structures, lighting, signal controllers, and fencing that are failing, worn out or functionally obsolete. Also, unlike pavement rehabilitation and



pavement preservation projects, traffic safety enhancements and operational improvements may be added to roadway rehabilitation work if such work is critical or required by FHWA RRR (Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation) standards. Other work such as geometric corrections and/or non-capacity increasing operational enhancements may also be added to roadway rehabilitation work if they have a high enough priority.

Examples of roadway rehabilitation projects include:

- Overlay
- Removal and replacement of the surface course
- Crack, seal, and overlay of rigid pavements regardless of overlay thickness
- Lane/shoulder replacements.

Roadway rehabilitation strategies for rigid, flexible and composite pavements are discussed in Chapters 620, 630 and 640. Additional information and guidance on roadway rehabilitation and other RRR projects may also be found in the Design Information Bulletin, Number 79 - "RRR Design Criteria" and in the PDPM Chapter 9, Article 5.

### 603.5 Reconstruction

Pavement reconstruction is the replacement of the entire existing pavement structure by the placement of the equivalent or increased pavement structure. Reconstruction usually requires the complete removal and replacement of the existing pavement structure. Reconstruction may utilize either new or recycled materials. Reconstruction is required when a pavement has either failed or has become structurally or functionally outdated.

Reconstruction projects are generally required to meet new construction standards. Reconstruction features typically include the addition of lanes, and significant change to horizontal or vertical alignment of the highway. Although reconstruction is often done for other reasons than pavement repair (realignment, vertical curve correction, improve vertical clearance, etc.), it can

be done as an option to rehabilitation when the existing pavement:

- Is in a substantially distressed condition and rehabilitation strategies will not restore the pavement to a good condition, or
- Grade restrictions prevent overlaying the pavement to meet the pavement design life requirements for a rehabilitation project; or
- Life cycle costs for rehabilitation are greater than those for reconstruction.

Reconstruction differs from lane/shoulder replacement roadway rehabilitation options in that lane/shoulder replacements typically involve replacing isolated portions of the roadway width whereas reconstruction is the removal and replacement of the entire roadway width. Incidental rebuilding of existing pavements for rehabilitation in order to conform to bridges, existing pavement, or meet vertical clearance standards are also considered a rehabilitation and not reconstruction. Storm or earthquake damage repair (i.e., catastrophic) are not considered reconstruction projects for the purposes of pavement engineering.

Reconstruction projects are to follow the same standards as new construction found in this manual unless noted otherwise.

### 603.6 Temporary Pavements and Detours

Temporary pavements and detours are constructed to temporarily carry traffic anticipated during construction. These types of pavements should be engineered using the standards and procedures for new construction except where noted otherwise.

## Topic 604 - Roles and Responsibilities

### 604.1 Roles and Responsibilities for Pavement Engineering

The roles and responsibilities listed below apply only to pavement engineering.

- (1) *Pavement Engineer.* The pavement engineer is the engineer who performs pavement

calculations, develops pavement structure recommendations, details, or plans. The pavement engineer can be the Project Engineer, District Materials Engineer, District Maintenance Engineer, consultant, or other staff engineer responsible for this task.

- (2) *Project Engineer (PE)*. The PE is the registered civil engineer in responsible charge of appropriate project development documents (i.e., Project Study Report, Project Report, and PS&E) and coordinates all aspects of project development. The PE is responsible for project technical decisions, engineering quality (quality control), and estimates. This includes collaborating with the District Materials Engineer, District Pavement Advisor and other subject matter experts regarding pavement details and selecting pavement strategy for new and rehabilitation projects. The PE clearly conveys pavement related decisions and information on the project plans and specifications for a Contractor to bid and build the project.

The PE coordinates with the Structures District Liaison Engineer and Division of Engineering Services (DES) staff for the proper selection and engineering of any structure approach system including the adequacy of all drainage ties between the structure approach drainage features and other new or existing drainage facilities. The PE should contact the Structures District Liaison Engineer as early as possible in the project development process to facilitate timely review and project scheduling.

- (3) *District Materials Engineer (DME)*. The DME is responsible for materials information for pavement projects in the district. The District Materials Unit is responsible for conducting or reviewing the findings of a preliminary soils and other materials investigation to evaluate the quality of the materials available for constructing the project. The DME prepares or reviews the Materials Report for each project; provides recommendations to and in

continuous consultation with the Project Engineer throughout planning and design, and with the PE and Resident Engineer during construction; and coordinates Materials information with the Department functional units, Material Engineering and Testing Services (METs), Headquarters functional units, local agencies, industry, and consultants.

- (4) *District Pavement Advisor (DPA)*. The DPA manages and coordinates overall pavement strategies for the District. They are primarily involved in pavement management such as identifying future pavement preservation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction needs, and prioritizing pavement projects to meet those needs. The DPA establishes pavement projects and reviews planning documents prepared by the PE for consistency with overall District and statewide goals for pavements. The District Pavement Advisor is typically either the District Maintenance Engineer or another individual within District Maintenance.
- (5) *Pavement Program Steering Committee (PPSC)*. The PPSC provides leadership and commitment to ensure safe, effective, and environmentally sensitive highway pavements that improve mobility across California. The PPSC is responsible for conveying clear direction and priorities on pavement initiatives, policies, and standards that reflect departmental goals; and for the implementation of pavement policies, standards, and specifications. Members of the PPSC include Headquarters Division Chiefs (Construction, Design, Engineering Services, Maintenance, Project Management, and Research & Innovation) and three District Directors.
- (6) *Pavement Standards Team (PST)*. The PST is a multifunctional group consisting of METs, Design, Construction, Maintenance, Research and Innovation, Office Engineer, Project Manager for the team, selected District representatives and the FHWA. The PST provides policies, procedures, and

practices regarding pavement engineering, construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation to ensure consistency and quality of the pavement structure throughout the State. The PST also develops and maintains all pavement related standards, specifications, and procedures; approves nonstandard specifications, and provides recommendations to the PPSC.

- (7) *Division of Design (DOD)*. The DOD is responsible for statewide standards and guidelines in the project engineering process. The DOD Office of Pavement Design (OPD) is responsible for communicating and maintaining pavement engineering standards, policies, procedures, and practices that are used statewide.
- (8) *Materials Engineering and Testing Services (METS)*. METS is a subdivision of the Division of Engineering Services (DES), which is responsible for conducting laboratory testing, field testing, specialized field inspections, and expert advice on materials and manufactured products. METS provides technical expertise on material properties and products for the development of statewide standards, guidelines, and procedure manuals. METS also works closely with the District Materials Engineers and Resident Engineers to investigate ongoing field and materials issues.
- (9) *DES Structure Design (OSD)*. The OSD is responsible for selecting the type of structure approach system to be used when the construction or rehabilitation of a structure approach slab is necessary.
- (10) *DES Geotechnical Services (DES-GS)*. The DES-GS provides the Districts, Structures, and Headquarters with expertise and guidance in soil related investigations and groundwater issues. DES-GS prepares or reviews Geotechnical Design Reports based upon studies and information supplied by the District.

## 604.2 Other Resources

The following resources provide additional standards and guidance related to pavement engineering. Much of this information can be found on the Department pavement website, see category (5) below.

- (1) *Standard Plans*. These are collections of commonly used engineering details intended to provide consistency for contractors, resident engineers and maintenance engineers in defining the scope of work for projects, assist in the biddability of the project contract plans, and assist maintenance in maintaining the facility. The standard plans were developed based on research and field experience and in consultation with industry. Standard plans for pavement must not be altered or modified without the prior written approval of the Chief, Office of Pavement Design. Standard plans for pavements can be found on the Department pavement website.
- (2) *Standard Specifications and Standard Special Provisions*. The Standard Specifications provide material descriptions, properties and work quality requirements, contract administration requirements, and measurement and payment clauses for items used in the project. The Standard Special Provisions are additional specification standards used to modify the Standard Specifications including descriptions, quality requirements, and measurement and payment for the project work and materials. When no Standard Specification or Standard Special Provision exists for new or proprietary items, the Pavement Standards Team must review and concur with a special provision. For further information, see the Specifications section on the Department pavement website.
- (3) *Pavement Technical Guidance*. Pavement Technical Guidance is a collection of supplemental guidance and manuals regarding pavement engineering which is intended to assist project engineers, pavement engineers, materials engineers, consultants, construction oversight personnel, and maintenance workers in making informed decisions on pavement



structural engineering, constructability and maintainability issues. Information includes, but is not limited to, resources for assistance in decision making, rigid, flexible and composite pavement rehabilitation strategies, pavement preservation strategies, and guidelines for the use of various products and materials. Technical assistance is also available from the Pavement Standards Team to assist with pavements that utilize new materials, methods, and products. These Technical Guidance documents may be accessed on the Department pavement website.

- (4) *Supplemental District Standards and Guidance.* Some Districts have developed additional pavement standards and guidance to address local issues. Such guidance adds to or supplements the standards found in this manual, the Standard Plans, the Standard Specifications, and Special Provisions. District guidance does not replace minimum statewide standards unless the Chief, Office of Pavement Design, has approved an exception. Supplemental District Guidance can be obtained by contacting the District Materials Engineer.
- (5) *Department Pavement website.* The Department Pavement website provides a one-stop resource for those seeking to find standards, guidance, reports, approved software, and other resource tools related to pavements. The Department Pavement website can be accessed at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/pavement/index.htm>.
- (6) *Pavement Interactive Guide.* The Pavement Interactive Guide is a reference tool developed by the Department in partnership with other states. It includes discussion and definitions to terms and practices used in pavement engineering that are intended to aid design engineers in obtaining a better understanding of pavements. This document is not a standards manual or guideline, rather, it supplements the standards, definitions, and guidance in this manual. Because of copyright issues, the Pavement Interactive Guide is only available to Department

employees on the Pavement intranet, or internal website.

- (7) *The AASHTO "Guide for Design of Pavement Structures."* Although not adopted by the Department, the AASHTO "Guide for Design of Pavement Structures" is a comprehensive reference guide that provides background that is helpful to those involved in engineering of pavement structures. This reference is on file in the Division of Design and a copy should be available in each District. Engineering procedures included in the AASHTO Guide are used by FHWA to check the adequacy of the specific structural sections adopted for the Department projects, as well as the procedures and standards included in Chapters 600 - 670 of this manual.

## Topic 605 – Record Keeping

### 605.1 Documentation

One complete copy of the documentation for the type of pavement selected should be retained in permanent District Project History files as well as subsequent updates of construction changes to the pavement structure. The documentation must contain the following:

- Pavement design life (including both the construction year and design year),
- The California R-values and unified soil classification of the subgrade soil,
- The California R-value(s) or strength properties for the materials selected for the subbase and/or base layers,
- The traffic index (TI) for each pavement structure, and
- Life cycle cost analysis (including the data required for the life-cycle cost analysis) and other factors mentioned in Topic 619.

### 605.2 Subsequent Revisions

Any subsequent changes in structural sections must be documented and processed in accordance with the appropriate instructions stated above and with proper reference to the original design.

## **Topic 606 - Research and *Special Designs***

### **606.1 Research and Experimentation**

Research and experimentation are undertaken on an ongoing basis to provide improved methods and standards, which take advantage of new technology, materials, and practices. They may involve investigations of new materials, construction methods, and/or new engineering procedures. Submittal of new ideas by Headquarters and District staff, especially those involved in the engineering, construction, maintenance, and materials of the pavement, is encouraged. Research proposals should be sent to the Division of Research and Innovation in Headquarters for review and consideration. Suggestions for research studies and changes in pavement standards may also be submitted to the Pavement Standards Team (PST). The Pavement Standards Team must approve pilot projects and experimental construction features before undertaking such projects. District Maintenance should also be engaged in the discussion involving pilot projects and experimental construction features. Experimental sections must be marked so that District Maintenance can easily locate and maintain such sites.

### **606.2 Special Designs**

Special designs must be fully justified and submitted to DOD Office of Pavement Design (OPD) for approval. "Special" designs are defined as those designs that meet either or both of the following criteria:

- Involve products, methods, or strategies which either reduce the structural thickness to less than what is determined by the standards and procedures of this manual and accompanying technical guidance, or
- Utilize experimental products or procedures (such as mechanistic-empirical engineering method) not covered in the engineering tables or methods found in this manual or accompanying technical guidance.

Special designs must be submitted to the Division of Design, Office of Pavement Design (OPD) either electronically or with hard copies. Hard copy submittals must be in duplicate. All submittals must include the proposed pavement structure(s) and a location strip map (project title sheet is acceptable). The letter of transmittal should include the following:

- Pavement design life, including both the construction year and design year (See Topic 612).
- The California R-value(s) and unified soil classification of the subgrade soil(s) (See Indexes 614.2 and 614.3).
- The California R-value(s) or strength properties for the materials selected for the subbase and/or base layers (See Tables 663.1A and 663.1B).
- The traffic index (TI) for each pavement structure (See Indexes 613.3 & 613.4).
- Justification for the "special" design(s).

OPD will act as the Headquarters focal point to obtain concurrence, as required, of PST representatives prior to OPD granting approval of the "special" designs.

### **606.3 Mechanistic-Empirical Design**

Mechanistic-Empirical (ME) Design is currently under development by the Department, FHWA, AASHTO and other States. On March 10, 2005, the Department committed to develop ME Design as an alternative and possible replacement of current methods. The Department is currently working on the procedures and criteria for performing this analysis. Until the criteria are established and the methodology verified, ME Design will be considered experimental and cannot, at this time, be used to engineer pavements on the State highway system or other roads maintained by the State.

### **606.4 Proprietary Items**

The use of proprietary materials and methods on State highway projects is discussed in Topic 110.10